

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 AGR-05 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /102 W

----- 123944

R 071026Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1438

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7247

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, PK, IR, TU

SUBJ: PREFERENTIAL TRADING AREA BETWEEN RCD STATES DISCUSSED

REF: ISLAMABAD 5952

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS ISSUED AUGUST 6 BY THE GOP-CONTROLLED NEWSAGENCIES, GOP COMMERCE MINISTER MIR AFZAL KHAN EMPHASIZED TO VISITING RCD SECRETARY-GENERAL AHMED MINAI THE NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING A PREFERENTIAL TRADING AREA BETWEEN MEMBER STATES TO INCREASE TRADE AMONG THEM. MINAI RESPONDED THAT A SCHEDULE OF RCD MEETINGS HAS BEEN DRAWN UP THIS YEAR FOR NEGOTIATING SUCH AN AGREEMENT. A MEETING OF EXPERTS WILL BE HELD IN TEHRAN IN SEPTEMBER 1975, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF THE COMMERCE MINISTRY SECRETARIES IN ISLAMABAD IN OCTOBER, AND OF COMMERCE MINISTERS AT ANKARA IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR. NO FURTHER DETAILS WERE ANNOUNCED.

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2. COMMENT: SOME MONTHS AGO A SENIOR GOP COMMERCE

OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE IDEA OF A PREFERENTIAL
RCD TRADING AREA WAS UNDER DISCUSSION BUT HE CONSIDER-
ED ITS SIGNIFICANCE MINIMAL. TURKEY AND IRAN WERE
MINOR TRADING PARTNERS OF PAKISTAN AND A REDUCTION OF
TRADE BARRIERS AMONG THEM WAS UNLIKELY TO LEAD TO ANY
SURGE IN PAKISTANI TRADE WITH THESE COUNTRIES. THE
OFFICIAL ADDED THAT TURKEY'S SPECIAL TRADE RELATION-
SHIP WITH THE EEC WOULD RAISE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS FOR
ANY RCD TRADING ZONE.

3. REQUEST: PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY IF THERE IS ANY
ASPECT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED
FROM THIS END.
BYROADE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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